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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF

Willem et al.

)

) EXAMINER:

SERIAL NO.: 10/743,966

) Group Art Unit: 2673

FILED: December 23, 2003

) Customer Number: 23644

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) Docket No. 920522-95347

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Name of person signing: Kathy Kurek
Signature _____

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks
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Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, submitted herewith is a copy of form PTO-1440 and copies of the references identified thereon. Also submitted herewith is a copy of the European Search Report, which has brought the references to the attention of the applicants.

Examiner of the application on its merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/743,966
Filing Date	December 23, 2003
First Named Inventor	Willem et al.
Art Unit	2673
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	920522-95347

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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Y	EP 0 731 436 A (NISHIDA SHINSUKE) 11 September 1996 (1996-09-11) * column 2, line 17 - line 18 * * column 7, line 47 - line 53; figure 2 * * column 15, line 25 - column 20, line 26 * ---	7,12, 14-18,21	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
4	Place of search MUNICH	Date of completion of the search 17 May 2004	Examiner Gundlach, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
EPO FORM 1503.03.02 (P04C01)			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 03 07 9177

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

17-05-2004

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